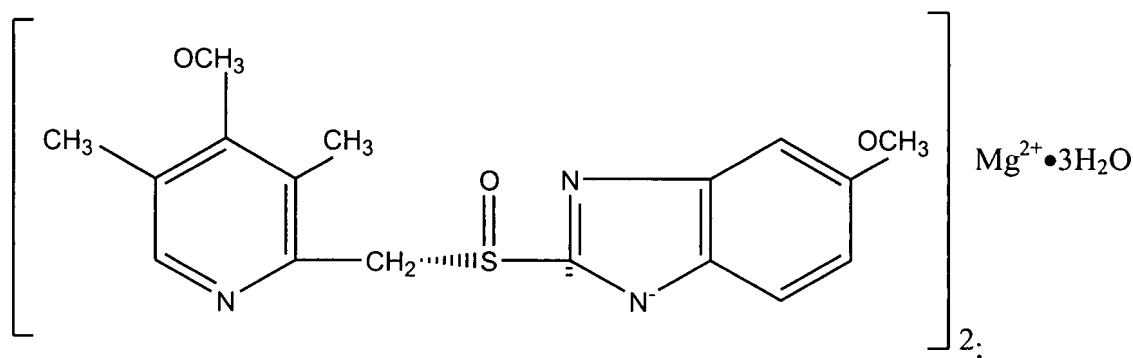


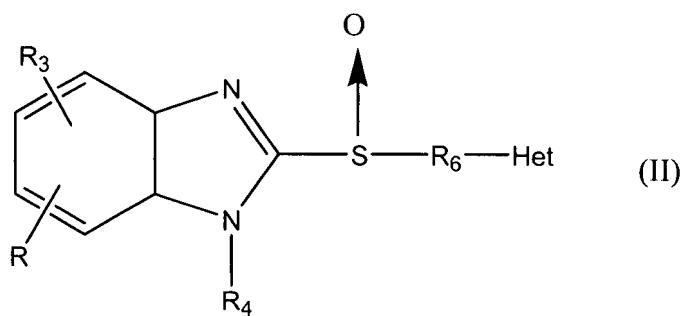
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for reducing [[snoring]] partial nocturnal upper airway obstruction in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to the patient an agent for treating symptoms of hyper-acidity or gastro-intestinal reflux disease (GERD).
- 2-4. **(Canceled)**
5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein said agent is an H₂ histamine receptor antagonist, an inhibitor of H⁺, K⁺ ATPase, a proton pump inhibitor, a Bismuth compound, an antacid, a synthetic analog of somatostatin, an antiemetic agent, a sucralfate, prostaglandin analog, a muscarinic cholinergic antagonist, a D₂ antagonist, a chenodeoxycholic acid, an ursodeoxycholic acid, or a pancreatic enzyme preparation.
6. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein said agent is an inhibitor of gastric secretion.
7. **(Withdrawn, Previously Presented)** The method of claim 6, wherein said inhibitor is an H₂ histamine receptor antagonist selected from TAGAMET™ (cimetidine), ZANTAC™ (ranitidine), PEPCID™ (famotidine), or AXID™ (nizatidine).
8. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 6, wherein said inhibitor is an H⁺, K⁺ ATPase selected from PREVACID™ (lansoprazole), NEXIUM™ (esomeprazole magnesium), or PRILOSEC™ (omeprazole).
9. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 6, wherein said inhibitor is PREVACID™ (lansoprazole).
10. **(Withdrawn, Previously Presented)** The method of claim 6, wherein said inhibitor is PROTONIX® (pantoprazole sodium) or ACIPHEX® (rabeprazole sodium or pariprazole).
11. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 6, wherein said inhibitor is a compound or a pharmaceutical composition represented by any of formulas I-XVIII or salts thereof, wherein formula I is:



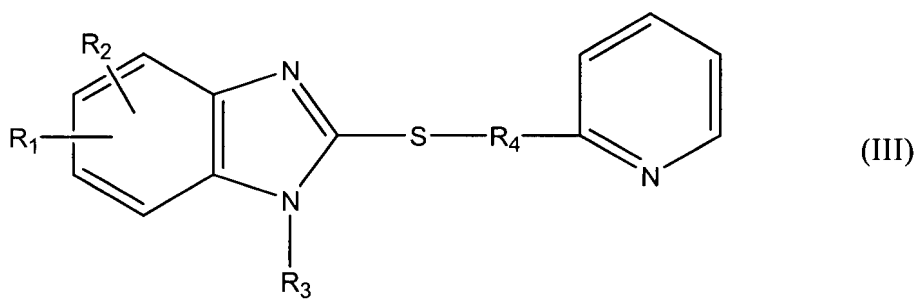
(Formula I)

wherein formula II is:



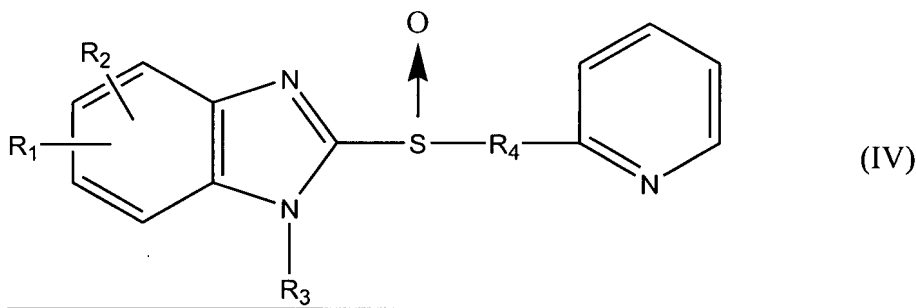
wherein R and R₃ are the same or different, and are hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, cyano, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, carboalkoxy, carboalkoxyalkyl, carbamoyl, carbamoyloxy, hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxy alkyl, trifluoromethyl or acyl in any position, R₄ is hydrogen, alkyl, acyl, carboalkoxy, carbamoyl, alkylcarbamoyl, dialkylcarbamoyl, alkylcarbonyl methyl, alkoxy carbonyl methyl or alkylsulphonyl, R₆ is a straight or branched alkyl chain having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, whereby only one methylene group is present between S and Het, and Het (heterocyclic group) is imidazolyl, imidazolinyl, benzimidazolyl, thiazolyl, thiazolinyl, quinolyl, piperidyl or pyridyl, further comprising optional substitution in the 3 to 5 position with lower alkyl groups and/or with halo substituents;

wherein formula III is:



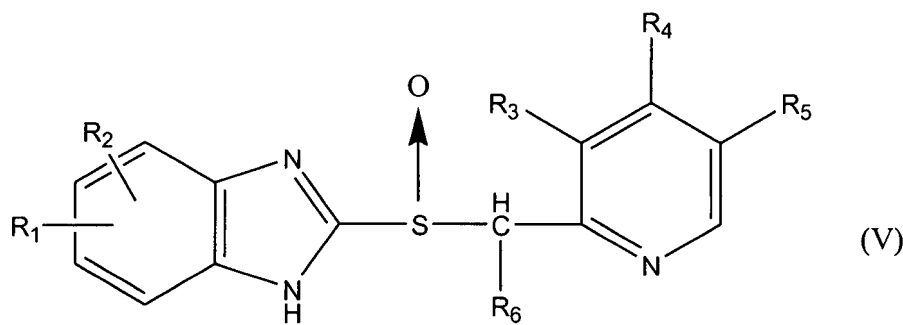
wherein R_1 and R_2 are each hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, cyano, carboxy, carboxy-alkyl, carboalkoxy, carboalkoxyalkyl, carbamoyl, carbamoyl-oxy, hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, trifluoromethyl or acyl in any position, R_3 is hydrogen, alkyl, acyl, carboalkoxy, carbamoyl, alkylcarbamoyl, dialkylcarbamoyl, alkylcarbonylmethyl, alkoxy carbonylmethyl, or alkylsulphonyl, and R_4 is straight and branched alkylene groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, whereby at most one methylene group is present between S and the pyridyl group, and whereby the pyridyl group is optionally further substituted with alkyl or halogen;

wherein formula IV is:



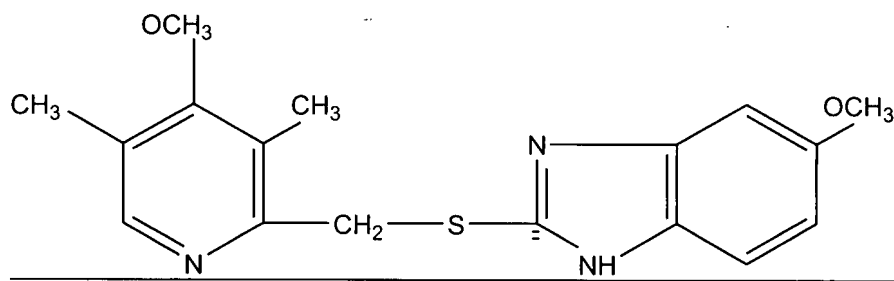
wherein R_1 and R_2 are each hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, cyano, carboxy, carboxy-alkyl, carboalkoxy, carboalkoxyalkyl, carbamoyl, carbamoyl-oxy, hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, trifluoromethyl or acyl in any position, R_3 is hydrogen, alkyl, acyl, carboalkoxy, carbamoyl, alkylcarbamoyl, dialkylcarbamoyl, alkylcarbonylmethyl, alkoxy carbonylmethyl, or alkylsulphonyl, and R_4 is straight and branched alkylene groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, whereby at most one methylene group is present between S and the pyridyl group, and whereby the pyridyl group is optionally further substituted with alkyl or halogen;

wherein formula V is:

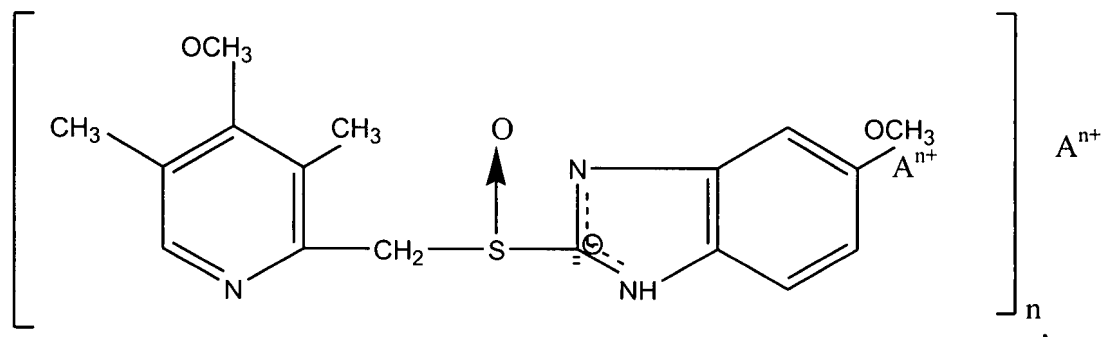


wherein R_1 and R_2 are the same or different, and are each hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, carbomethoxy, carbethoxy, alkoxy, or alkanoyl, R_6 is hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl, and R_3 , R_4 , and R_5 are same or different, and are each hydrogen, methyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methoxyethoxy or ethoxyethoxy, whereby R_3 , R_4 , and R_5 are not all hydrogen, and whereby when two of R_3 , R_4 , and R_5 are hydrogen, the third of R_3 , R_4 , and R_5 is not methyl;

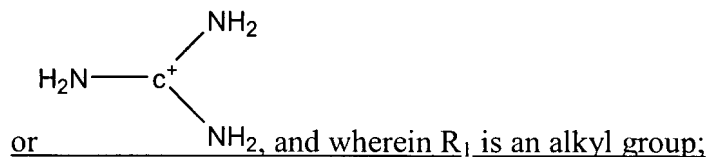
wherein formula VI is:



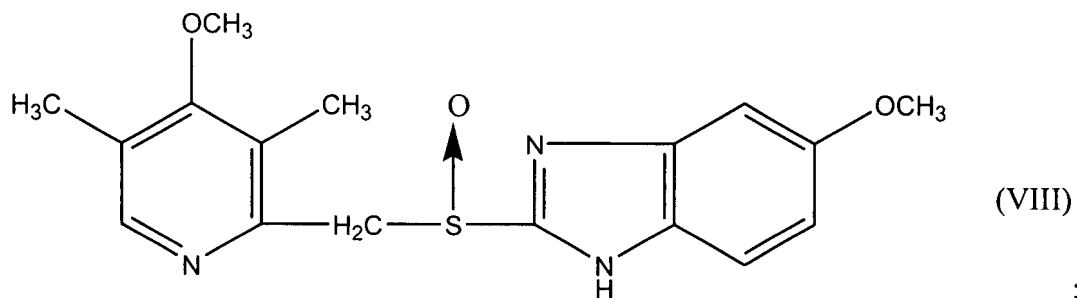
wherein formula VII is:



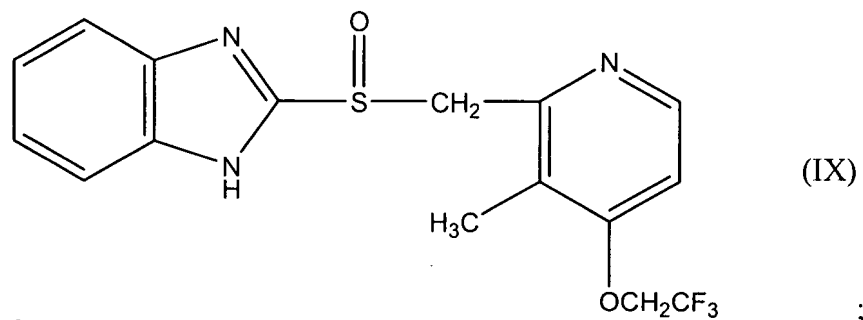
wherein n is 1, 2, or 4, A^{n+} is Li^+ , Na^+ , K^+ , Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , Ti^{4+} , $N^+(R_1)_4$



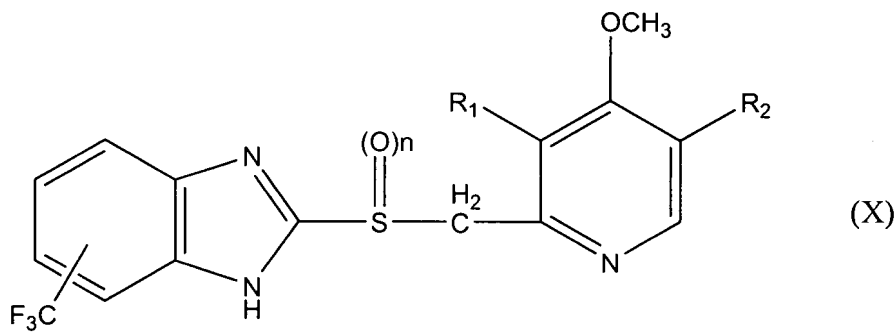
wherein formula VIII is:



wherein formula IX is:

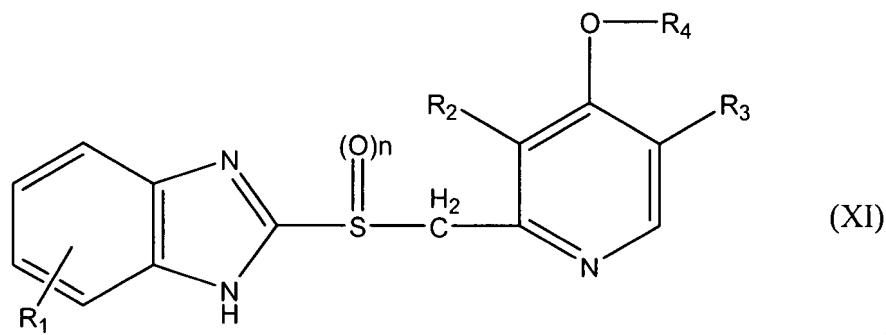


wherein formula X is:



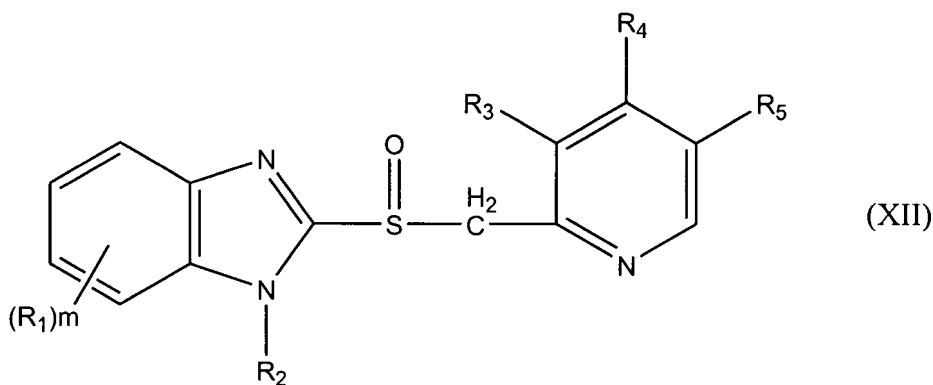
wherein R_1 is hydrogen or methyl, R_2 is hydrogen or methyl, and n is 0 or 1;

wherein formula XI is:



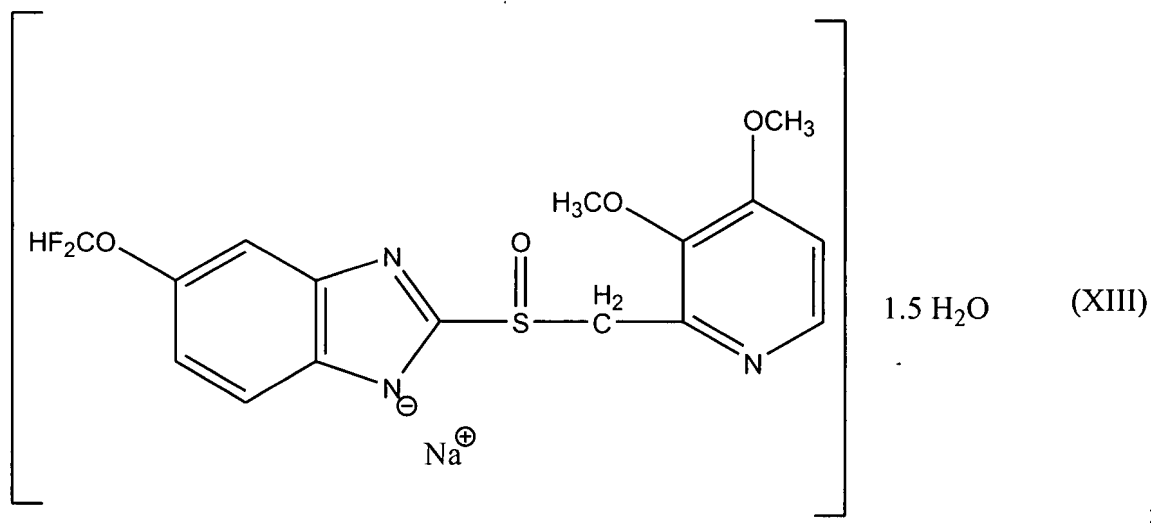
wherein R_1 is hydrogen, methoxy or trifluoromethyl, R_2 and R_3 are independently hydrogen or methyl, R_4 is a C_{2-5} , and n is 0 or 1;

wherein formula XII is:

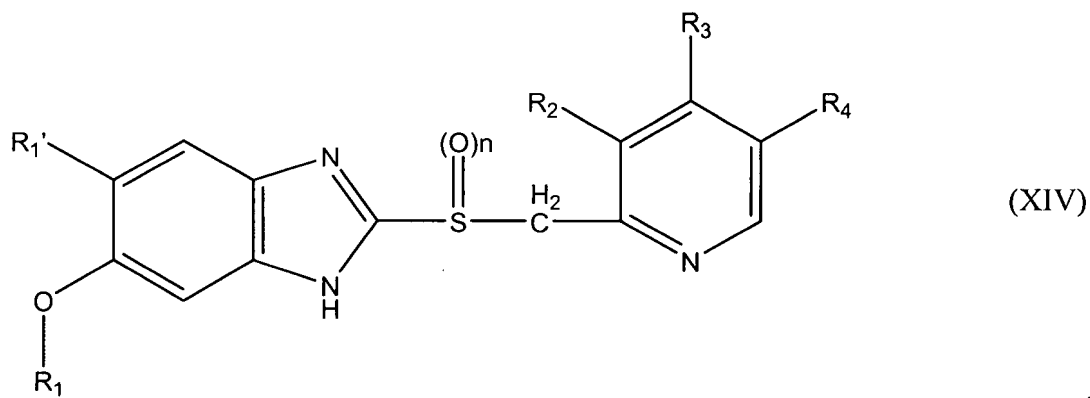


wherein R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, cyano, carboxy, carboalkoxy, carboalkoxyalkyl, carbamoyl, carbamoylalkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, trifluoromethyl, acyl, carbamoyloxy, nitro, acyloxy, aryl, aryloxy, alkylthio or alkylsulfinyl, R_2 is hydrogen, alkyl, acyl, carboalkoxy, carbamoyl, alkylcarbamoyl, dialkylcarbamoyl, alkylcarbonylmethyl, alkoxycarbonylmethyl or alkylsulfonyl, R_3 and R_5 are the same or different, and each is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy or alkoxyalkoxy, R_4 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, optionally fluorinated, or alkoxyalkoxy, and m is an integer of 0 through 4;

wherein formula XIII is:

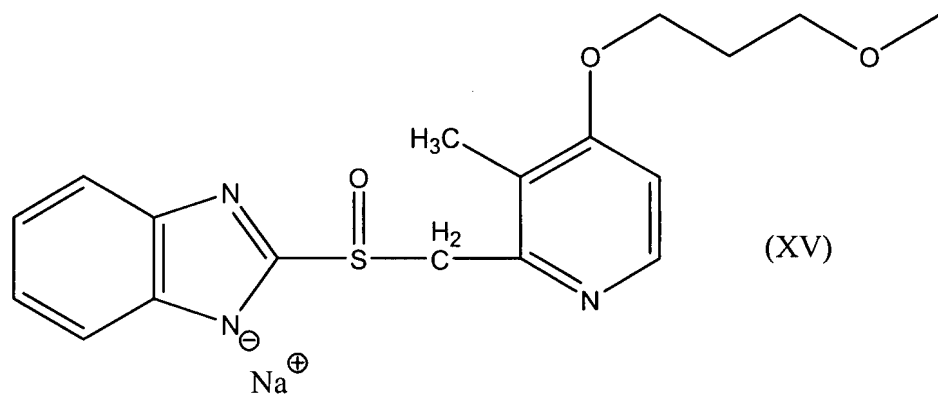


wherein formula XIV is:

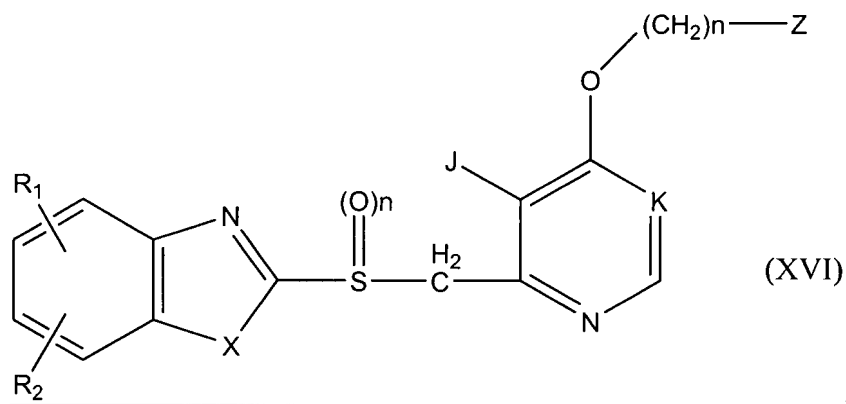


wherein R_1 is a 1-3C-alkyl radical which is completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine, or a chlorodifluoromethyl radical; R_1' represents hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl, a 1-3C-alkyl radical, or a 1-3C-alkoxy radical which is, optionally, completely or predominantly substituted by fluorine; R_1 and R_1' together, with inclusion of the oxygen atom to which R_1 is bonded, represent a 1-2C-alkylenedioxy radical which is, optionally, completely or partly substituted by fluorine, or a chlorotrifluoroethylenedioxy radical; R_3 represents a 1-3C-alkoxy radical; one of the radicals R_2 and R_4 is a 1-3C-alkoxy radical, and the other is a hydrogen atom or a 1-3C-alkyl radical, and n is 0 or 1;

wherein formula XV is:

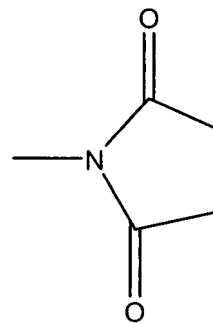


wherein formula XVI is:

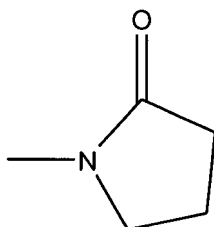


where R_1 and R_2 is the same or different, each being a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogenated lower alkyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl or carboxyl group or a halogen

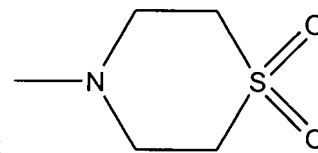
atoms; X is a group represented by the formula: -O-, -S- or , in which R_3 stands for a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or lower alkoxycarbonyl group; and Z represents: (1) a group of the formula: -O-(CH₂)_p-O-R₄, where p is an integer of 1 to 3, and R₄ is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl, aryl or aralkyl group, (2) a group of the general formula: -O-(CH₂)_q-R₅, where q is an integer of 1 to 3, and R₅ is a halogen atom or an alkoxycarbonyl, aryl or heteroaryl group, (3) a group of the general formula: -O-(CH₂)_r-O-(CH₂)_s-O-R₆, where r and s each independently are an integer of 1 to 5, and R₆ is a



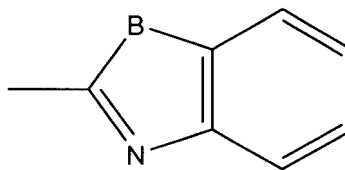
hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group, (4) a group of the formula: _____, (5) a



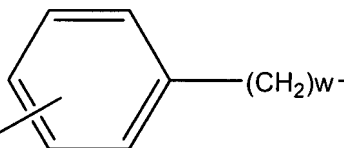
group of the formula: _____, (6) a group of the formula: _____



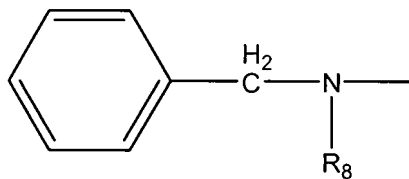
(7) a group of the general formula: $\text{---S}^{\text{(O)}_t\text{---A}}$, where t is an integer of 0 to 2, and A is a



group of the general formula: _____, where B is a group represented by the formula: -NH-, -O- or -S-, a lower alkyl, alkoxycarbonylmethyl, pyridyl or furyl group



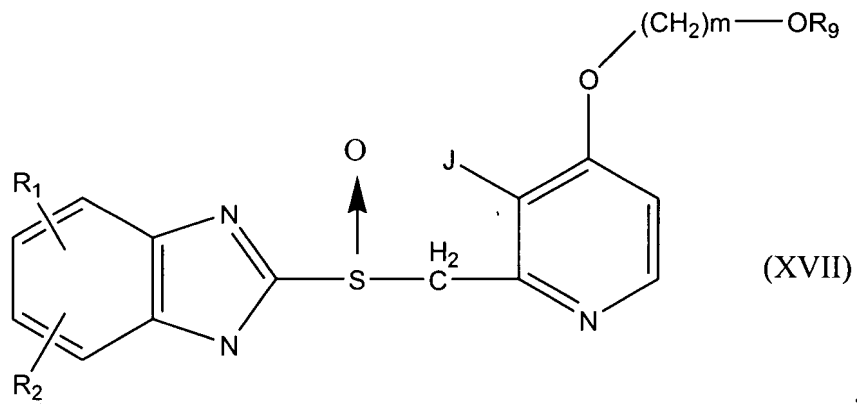
or a group of the general formula: $\text{R}_7\text{---C}_6\text{H}_4\text{---(CH}_2\text{)}_w\text{---}$, wherein R_7 is a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl or lower alkoxy group or a halogen atom, and w is 0 or 1, (8) a group of



the general formula: _____, where R_8 is an acetoxy or lower alkyl group, or (9) a group of the general formula: ---O---R_9 , where R_9 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl or aryl group; n is an integer of 0 to 2; m is an integer of 2 to 10, and, J and K, which may be the same or different from each other, each stand for a hydrogen atom or a lower

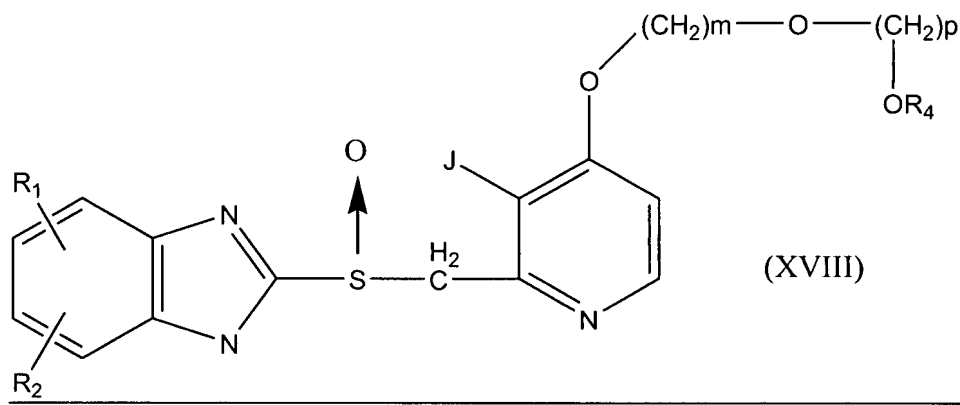
alkyl group, with the proviso that when Z is a group falling under the above category (9), R₉ is a lower alkyl group and m stands for an integer of 3 to 10;

wherein formula XVII is:



wherein R₁, R₂, J, m and R₉ have the same meanings as defined in formula XVI;

wherein formula XVIII is:



wherein R₁, R₂, J, p, m and R₄ have the same meanings as defined in formula XVI.

12-17. (Canceled)